

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 00785 151236Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 PRS-01 L-03 /033 W

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R 151015Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9752

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0785

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: THAI POLICE ARREST BURMESE DISSIDENT LEADER JIMMY YANG

REF: A. BANGKOK 0318 B. STATE 7396

1. THE THAI POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH ARRESTED JIMMY YANG AT A BANGKOK HOTEL JANUARY 7 ON CHARGES OF ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THAILAND AND POSSESSION OF A FAKED THAI IDENTIFICATION CARD. YANG IS THE LEADER OF THE KOKANG RESISTANCE FORCE (A SMALL BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUP) AND A COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY PARTY WHICH U NU LED UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FROM THAILAND. YANG IS ALSO A KNOWN TRAFFICKER IN NARCOTICS.

2. YANG HAS LIVED IN CHIANG MAI FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WHERE HE WAS FORMERLY ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE RINCOME HOTEL. THAI POLICE RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO THAT YANG HAD LEFT CHIANG MAI AND WAS STAYING AT THE RENO HOTEL IN BANGKOK.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ASSISTANT POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL POL. LT. GEN. VITOON YASAWAT SAID THAT "NORMAL LEGAL PROCEDURES" WOULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST YANG, IMPLYING THAT THE RTG MIGHT DEPORT HIM TO BURMA AFTER HE SERVES HIS TERM HERE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS NOT CLEAR WHY THAI POLICE ARRESTED YANG NOW, SINCE THE CHARGES AGAINST HIM ARE OLD AND POLICE HAVE KNOWN HIS
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WHEREABOUTS FOR SOME TIME. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE THAT YANG'S

ARREST INDICATES A HARDER RTG POLICY TOWARD BURMESE DISSIDENT GROUPS OPERATING FROM THAILAND. OTHER INDICATIONS THAT RTG POLICY IS CHANGING ARE: DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SUKICH NIMMANHAEMIN'S STATEMENTS TO AMBASSADOR KINTNER (REFTEL A), THE REPORT THAT THAI POLICE MAY BE QUESTIONING MEMBERS OF U NU'S FAMILY (REFTEL B), AND POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL PRACHUAB SUNTHARANGKUL'S STATEMENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CRACK DOWN ON GUN SMUGGLERS (SEPTTEL). KINTNER

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